

Route 28X Enhancements

A NEW ERA OF BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR MATTAPAN, DORCHESTER, AND ROXBURY

The Executive Office of Transportation and the MBTA are seizing the opportunity provided by the federal stimulus program to dramatically improve bus service provided in our most heavily used bus corridor.

The Project

The MBTA Bus Route 28 will be replaced with Route 28X, to provide more comfortable and efficient service from Mattapan Square to Ruggles Station. The 28X will operate via Blue Hill Avenue and Warren Street and serve Dudley Station, a hub of MBTA bus service. Route 28X will feature dedicated bus lanes, new bus stations with heated shelters and CharlieCard machines, higher-capacity, 60-foot clean-running buses, and traffic improvements designed to speed up service and dramatically improve reliability.

Riders of the Route 28X will be able to more easily and more quickly connect to more than a dozen bus routes at Dudley and Ruggles Stations, as well as to the Orange Line and Mattapan High Speed Line.

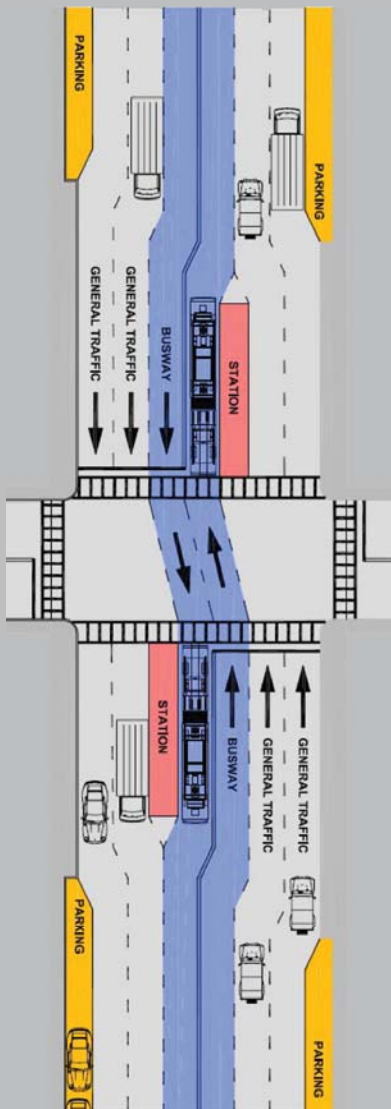
This project responds directly to public requests for better bus service - service that runs quicker, more often, more reliably, and on the routes that riders want. In addition, the project will have economic benefits through improved transportation services in areas that have been targeted for economic development.

Features

A number of improvements will be made as part of this service:

- Dedicated bus lanes will reduce travel time by taking buses out of congestion. Along portions of Blue Hill Avenue and Warren Street, bus lanes can be provided in one or both directions.
- Upgraded traffic signals will give priority to buses at intersections.
- Fewer bus stops along the route will significantly increase travel speeds. Other bus routes will continue serving some or all stops no longer served by Route 28X.
- New stations along the route will have better shelters, seating, electronic signs, heaters, and CharlieCard machines.
- Larger buses will provide more seating capacity.
- Paying fares before boarding the bus will reduce vehicle boarding times.

For more information, visit ➤ www.mass.gov/eot/28x



Roadway configuration with center busway and curb parking.



New York example



California example

Questions and Answers

- 1> What will happen to the existing Route 28 bus?**
 - › The existing Route 28 will be replaced by a new Route 28X. In order to speed travel times and provide a more efficient connection to downtown, Route 28X will serve fewer stops than currently served in the corridor. Routes 22, 23, 31, among others, will continue to provide service in the same corridor.
- 2> Will there be a coordinated Silver Line hookup or direct buses to South Station?**
 - › The project is proposed to follow the route of the current Route 28 bus, which connects with the Silver Line at Dudley. As part of the upcoming Community Planning Workshops, we hope to hear from current Route 28 riders about their preferred destinations and will consider options for coordinating bus connections or extending routes.
- 3> When will this new service be operational?**
 - › The new Route 28X is expected to be launched by January 2012.
- 4> What will happen to the trees and flower boxes just planted down the median strip? Is there a commitment to replant them?**
 - › In order to construct a dedicated median busway along Blue Hill Avenue, we may have to remove landscaping features. Should this be necessary, new landscaping would be installed in nearby locations. Collaborating with the neighborhoods in the Route 28X corridor, EOT and the MBTA will work to find alternative locations for replacement plantings.
- 5> How will crosswalks be redesigned so that children will be able to cross the street safely?**
 - › We will work with the neighboring communities and design professionals to determine optimal and safe crosswalk configurations. We believe that the presence of median bus stations could improve pedestrian safety by reducing the number of lanes that pedestrians need to cross in order to reach the bus and by making the bus stations more prominent.
- 6> Will the Route 28X Enhancement project change evacuation routes?**
 - › We believe that the Route 28X Enhancement project will maintain a consistent number of through travel lanes on Blue Hill Avenue, maintaining the evacuation route. In addition, through improved transit facilities the 28X will also facilitate evacuation by bus – the most efficient way to accomplish evacuation during emergencies and often the only option for people who do not own or have access to an automobile.
- 7> Will any parking spaces be removed?**
 - › Yes, some parking spaces – including parking along the existing median – will need to be removed to make space for the dedicated bus lane. EOT and the City of Boston will work to minimize the parking loss, recognizing its importance in the corridor. We will work with residents, businesses, and institutions along the Route 28X corridor to determine how to minimize impacts to those who currently park along Blue Hill Avenue.
- 8> Will turn lanes be removed? If so, wouldn't this considerably slow traffic? If other buses in the corridor must travel in the regular travel lanes, won't cars get stuck behind stopped buses or left-turning cars?**
 - › In some cases, existing turn lanes may need to be relocated or consolidated in order to accommodate the dedicated bus lane. As with the removal of parking, EOT and the MBTA will look to minimize changes to existing travel patterns; these and other issues will be fully discussed with members of the community during the planning and design process.
- 9> Will sidewalks need to be redesigned?**
 - › The Route 28X Enhancement project as currently proposed does not anticipate any narrowing or major redesign of the existing sidewalks along Blue Hill Avenue.
- 10> If this money isn't used for the 28X, can it be used for other transportation projects in Mattapan and Dorchester?**
 - › Should the Route 28X Enhancement project not go forward, EOT and the MBTA would most likely use the funding set aside for this project to fund other public transportation and roadway projects throughout the Commonwealth. Federal guidelines dictate that in order to stimulate the economy, projects that can advance quickly must be given priority.
- 11> Can there be a guarantee about minority hires for new construction? Can companies with poor past records of minority hires not be considered for the project?**
 - › In selecting a construction firm for the Route 28X Enhancement project, EOT and the MBTA will follow all state and federal requirements, as well as internal policy, regarding the inclusion of minority contractors. In addition, the use of federal economic stimulus funding (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) carries with it certain provisions for minority hiring and we will follow those as well. Unless a contractor has been officially delisted from the Commonwealth's list of approved vendors, it cannot be removed from consideration for this project.
- 12> Where did the idea for the 28X project come from?**
 - › The need for improved bus service in the corridor has been longstanding (It was in the 2003 Program for Mass Transportation.) and has been documented in the City of Boston's Roxbury Strategic Master Plan and in Access Boston 2000-2010.

This project is also consistent with several themes from EOT's *youMove Massachusetts* strategic planning effort such as improving transportation system reliability, increasing capacity of existing facilities and services, and creating a more user-friendly transportation system, among others. The Route 28X corridor has significant bus ridership and a physical layout that allows for capital improvements that can significantly improve schedule adherence and travel times.